

1 May 2000

SPRUSON & FERGUSON  
GPO Box 3898  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Your Ref : 480250:LDP

Examiner's first report on patent application no. 50182/99  
by CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA

Last proposed amendment no.

Dear Madam/Sir,

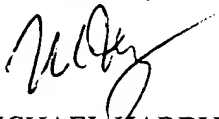
I am replying to the request for normal examination. I have examined the application and I believe that there are lawful grounds of objection to the application. These grounds of objection are:

1. There is no Notice of Entitlement on file.
2. Claims 1, 6, 11, 12, 15 and 16 are speculative in their scopes because the term "meta-data" as used in the claims has no clear ambit. Meta-data could include for example a file name, a file type, a file size, or any number of file content descriptors including user defined descriptors or labels. It follows that without a clear ambit for the term "meta-data" that the feature, "determining, depending upon the first meta-data, a set of instructions from a template" likewise cannot be given a clear and unambiguous construction. Furthermore the claims refer to first and second meta-data, but the second meta-data does not have any functional purpose defined in the claims. Consequently it is not clear what, if any limitation is implied by the inclusion of the second meta-data.
3. Following objection 2 above claims 1, 6, 11, 12, 15 and 16 include within their scopes such common place data processing methods as determining the file type of the input information (eg. .mpg, .jpg, .wav, .gif, .tif etc.) and then selecting the appropriate processing functions for manipulating the given file type.
4. Claims 1, 6, 11, 12, 15 and 16 are not novel in the light of US-A-5608859 (TAGUCHI) 4 March 1997. See column 4 lines 32 to 60.
5. Apparatus claims 13 and 14 are not clear in their appendence to claims 8 and 9 which are method claims.

I apologise for your application not being considered within the time set out in our Customer Service Charter. Currently the time between request and examination for all work in this technology is beyond that set out in the charter. We are refining our processes and reviewing our work distribution to address these delays.

You have 21 months from the date of this report to overcome all my objection(s) otherwise your application will lapse. You will need to pay a fee for any response you file after 12 months from the date of this report before I can consider that response.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Hardy', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

MICHAEL HARDY

Examiner of Patents, Section C4

Telephone: (02) 6283 2547